

# A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

2025-26



THE  
PORTSMOUTH  
GRAMMAR  
SCHOOL

*“Geography is a way of pulling all key information together. It shows you the location, of course. But also, the economics. The people. The traffic. The terrain. The weather. The natural features - the forest, the ocean, the rivers. The borders and interconnections among those things.”* (Forbes, 2022)

## Course Outline

The OCR A Level in Geography has been designed to give pupils the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary to become engaged global citizens. Through the study of dynamic and contemporary content, pupils can better understand issues which affect people and places at a range of scales. Geography is a multi-disciplinary subject, ranging from the physics of weather to the politics of conflict, the art of field sketching and the chemistry of the oceans. Geography graduates remain some of the most employable with the skills gained being held in high regard.

## Components

The **Physical Systems** component considers the interrelationships between the land, oceans and atmosphere along with issues relating to management. We study Glaciated Landscapes and Earth’s Life Support Systems. The **Human Interactions** component investigates the spatial patterns of people and places. We study Changing Spaces, Making Places and Global Connections (Global Migration and Power and Borders). **Geographical Debates** takes some of the most pressing issues the planet faces and encourages pupils to engage with, reflect on and think critically about them. We study Hazardous Earth and Climate Change. **Investigative Geography** is an independent investigation consisting of a written report which can be related to any area of the specification.

# Beyond the Classroom

## Fieldwork

A Level Geography pupils are required to carry out a minimum of 4 days of fieldwork during the course. As such, we run a day trip to London and a residential trip to the Lake District in Year 12. In addition to these compulsory days, the department offers optional overseas trips to locations such as Iceland, Tenerife and most recently to Sicily.

## Enrichment

A Level geographers are encouraged to follow the news and to read widely around the subject. To support this all pupils receive the *Geography Review* magazine. They are also encouraged to engage with super-curricular activities such as attending the Sixth Form Geography Society, watching relevant Ted Talks and completing MOOCs.

# Entry Requirements

The minimum requirement is a Grade 6 in GCSE Geography but a pupil who has not studied Geography before may take the A Level by catching up with the base level of knowledge over the summer before Year 12 and attending academic tutoring sessions as necessary. It is important that you opt to study Geography because you are interested in the subject, and you are motivated to achieve your academic potential.

# Skills Required and Developed

Pupils are required to develop a sense of place, ranging from local to international scales, and to be able to evaluate and critically analyse spatial and temporal change. Extended writing is a required skill which is developed throughout the course. Skills such as mapping, graphicacy and quantitative techniques are developed.

# University Courses and Professions that require the Subject

There are no courses or professions which specifically require Geography at A Level. It is recognised as a science subject for courses where these are specified, and many universities recognise Geography's development of transferable skills, and it is therefore considered a facilitating subject.



## More Information

Contact our Head of Geography, Miss. L Burton:

- Telephone: 023 9236 4206
- Email: L.Burton@pgs.org.uk

You can also find more information on the exam board's website: [www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)